

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) Spinal column support system comprising a bone screw (16) having a shaft, a plate or rod arrangement having at least one opening (4) in which the bone screw (16) is displaceable, an upper rotatable fixing element disk and a lower rotatable fixing element disk that can be positioned at a spaced distance one above the other with respect to the plate (2) or rod, each of the upper and lower fixing element disks comprising an eccentrically disposed hole (10, 12) through which the bone screw (16) passes,

the upper and lower fixing element disks each being longitudinally displaceably disposed and rotatable within the plate or rod, the bone screw being movable axially above the bone screw shaft,

wherein the bone screw (16) comprises an upper part (18) that is provided for screwing in the plate (2) or rod and comprises a spherical receptacle on the lower end, and a lower bone screw shaft part (20) that comprises, on the upper end, a spherical head (22) that is accommodated in the spherical receptacle in a rotationally moveable manner, and

the bone screw shaft part (20) is provided with a holding element (26) on the upper end, which holding element comprises, on the upper end, the spherical head (22) accommodated in the upper bone screw part in a rotationally moveable manner and also comprises a calotte bearing (30) beneath the spherical head for receiving the upper end (20a) of the bone screw shaft part (20), in such a manner that the bone screw shaft part is freely movable in the calotte bearing in a conical or pyramid-like manner.

2. (previously presented) Spinal column support system

according to Claim 1, wherein the plate or rod is provided with a support ring in the inner wall of the opening, which support ring accommodates the upper and the lower disks.

3. (previously presented) Spinal column support system according to Claim 1, wherein the upper and the lower disks (6, 8) are circular.

4. (previously presented) Spinal column support system according to Claim 1, wherein the lower disk (8) is thicker than the upper disk (6).

5. (previously presented) Spinal column support system according to Claim 1, wherein the hole (12) of the lower disk (8) is conical.

Claims 6-7 (canceled).

8. (currently amended) Spinal column support system according to Claim 7, wherein a stepped torsion protector (32) is provided in the calotte bearing (30).

9. (previously presented) Spinal column support system according to Claim 1, wherein the upper part of the bone screw is an adjusting screw (18) that is provided with a thread on its end opposite the bone screw shaft (20) and can be attached by means of a nut (24).

10. (previously presented) Spinal column support system according to Claim 1, wherein one or several units are provided as an extension for supporting one or several vertebrae.

11. (previously presented) Spinal column support system according to Claim 10, wherein a bending zone (14) is provided between adjacent units.